

Weeds will lose this year's war

Spring is here and with the first long weekend I can no longer ignore the yard work that stares me in the face every time I leave the house. I cringe when I look at the brown patches, the healthy young weeds just soaking up the rain and sunrays.

Weeds rule the world, you know. You spray them, you pull them and finally you curse them, but you can't beat them. The Big Guy and I left a postage stamp size lot in the city to come up to our half acre of dandelions, goldenrod and thistles.

Rural router gardeners like myself sometimes fight a losing battle in conquering weeds and maintaining that Martha Stewart-like landscape. Once I watched Martha demonstrate how to design and cultivate a herb garden that looked simple enough to reproduce. Funny how a 30-minute show can make any project seem easy for even the amateur to achieve. I have long since woken up and smelled the roses, so to speak.

Going to a local nursery I purchased thyme, parsley and lots of other interesting specimens. The small plot was weeded, prepared and the little plants placed strategically.

By fall my little herb garden became the Martha Stewart garden from hell. Bugs and slugs - ugh - were everywhere and the natural solutions to kill them, seemed to please them instead. I placed beer in containers and hoped like all the gardening magazines said, that they would get intoxicated, fall in and go to alcoholic heaven. Not my



Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

slugs, I ended up with fat and happy slugs that drank, then ate my herbs in a drunken binge returning in the dark of the night to my garden pub.

This year the gloves are off. I am determined to have a lush green lawn with flowers loaded with buds and blooms. Like many rural gardeners, we have to contend with the weed seeds that come flying in our yards landing everywhere, creating gardening havoc.

A prime example of this was my flower bed last summer. The Big Guy spent hours digging a huge plot that we sprinkled with wildflower seeds. Every day or so I would venture out to see how much bigger they had grown. With great pride I showed off my hardy plants to anyone who came to the house for a visit.

August passed and no flowers appeared on the three-and-four-foot high beauties. Fall came and surprise,

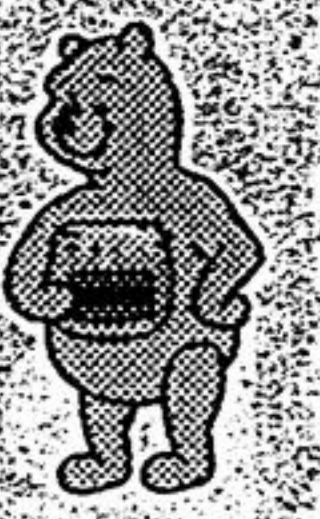
surprise, the carefully tended and fertilized flowers were actually thistles. Disgraced and humiliated I decided next year - this year - I would rule the yard, not the weeds. This long weekend I am taking my romantic anniversary present, a fertilizer spreader, and I am treating the lawn.

Next, I am going to follow Angelo Pignatello's advice on gardening for we rural routers. Being a comedian at heart, Angelo from Tree Valley Garden Centre said to make sure to plant green side up. I think that is the only thing that I have done right. If last summer you had stunted growth or yellow leaves with small or minimal blooms, Angelo says test your soil and correct the problem.

Last summer I invented my own gardening tip. I would remove the delicate little plants and dip them in transplant solution. It made sense that this would give them a kick start and boy, would my flowers bloom. Wrong again - I burned the roots and killed about three flats of plants.

Have a great long weekend, and may all weeds go to the great compost pile in the sky!

The best friends your party could have



Partyfriends
Children's Character Entertainment

905-727-5916 or 1-888-793-0002

Birthday Parties • Hospital Visits • Corporate Events
Singing • Dancing • Party Supplies

HEY BOYS & GIRLS!



How would you like to make some extra money?

We have paper routes available in the following areas:

- Kerrigan Crescent (Unionville).....51 Homes
- Stonehedge Hollow (Unionville).....37 Homes
- Briarwood Road (Unionville).....42 Homes
- Central Street W (Claremont).....60 Homes
- Main Street W (Stouffville).....50 Homes
- Dominion Street (Uxbridge).....40 Homes
- Marietta Street (Uxbridge).....64 Homes

If you would like to be part of a great carrier team

please call:

Markham
905-294-8244

Stouffville
905-640-2100

Uxbridge
905-852-9741

Housing units up by 218 last year

A total of 218 housing units were built in Whitchurch-Stouffville last year, the town reports.

The town's building department also reported that permits were issued for one industrial unit, 16 commercial units and 27 swimming pools.

Whitchurch-Stouffville earned a total of \$356,702 in revenue for building permits.

DOG-GONE DELICIOUS!

Introducing

The Lot Burger

Only One Of Its Kind In Town!

• Deli Specials • Homemade Soup

• Bro-tisserie Chicken

• Homeburgers



Coppins Corner Restaurant

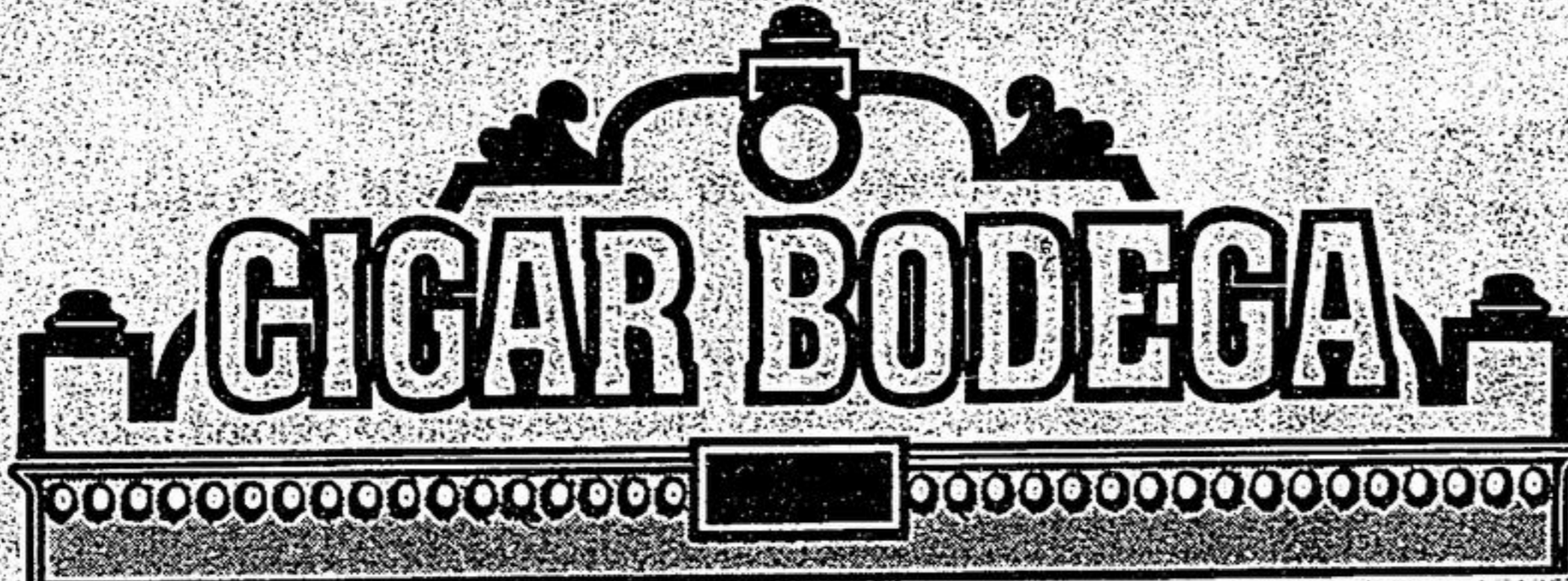
NOW OPEN SUNDAYS!

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Brock Rd. & Durham St

649-3455

NOW OPEN!



Premium Leaf House & Cigar Lounge

Located in Unionville, over 50 brands of cigars from Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Mexico, as well as pipe tobacco and related smoking accessories.

205 Main Street, Unionville
(905) 513-1810



28th Annual Unionville Village Festival

June 7th & 8th

Celebrate the Tradition

BEAUTIFUL BABY CONTEST
Sat. June 7, 1997, Crosby Memorial Arena
210 Main St., Unionville

Calling all babies. Ages 6 - 23 months.

First prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- 6 - 13 months infant girls
- 6 - 13 months infant boys
- 14 - 23 months toddler girls
- 14 - 23 months toddler boys

Registration is limited to 15 children in each category

Unionville Residents Only



BABY CONTEST REGISTRATION FORM 1997

BABY'S LAST NAME _____

BABY'S FIRST NAME _____

BABY'S DATE OF BIRTH (day/month/year) _____ SEX _____

PARENT'S LAST NAME _____

PARENT'S FIRST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Please submit registration form To: Unionville Festival Baby Contest
185 Ramona Blvd., Markham, Ontario L3P 2K9

All registrations will be confirmed by telephone prior to the event.

"Celebrate the Tradition"

VARLEY

a celebration

31 MAY - 10 AUGUST 1997

GALLERY OPENING, SATURDAY, 31 MAY, 1997

Join us for the official opening of

The Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham and its commemorative exhibition *Varley: A Celebration*.

THE FREDERICK HORSMAN VARLEY
ART GALLERY OF MARKHAM

216 MAIN STREET (AT CARLTON AND MAIN), UNIONVILLE, ONTARIO L3R 2H1

905-477-9511

Frederick Horsman Varley Self Portrait, Days of 1943 (detail) 1945. Oil on canvas mounted on masonite 43.5 x 40.7 cm. Hart House, University of Toronto. © 1997 Estate of Kathleen Gormley McKelvey